

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method of propagating changes to a table, comprising:
2 ~~maintaining a second version of the table at a second site;~~
3 receiving, ~~at the second site,~~ from a first site maintaining a first version of the
4 table, at a second site that maintains a second version of the table, change
5 data that identifies changes made to the first version of the table; and
6 updating, at the second site, the second version of the table based on the change
7 data ~~to create an updated second version of the table,~~
8 wherein at least one of the first version of the table and the ~~updated~~ second
9 version of the table have at least one non-overlapping relational database
10 column both before and after the step of updating.

- 1 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping
2 relational database column is present in the first version and missing in the
3 ~~updated~~ second version of the table.

- 1 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-overlapping
2 relational database column is missing in the first version and present in the
3 ~~updated~~ second version of the table.

- 1 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 reconciling differences in the column shape of the first version and the column
3 shape of the second version for changes identified in the change data.

- 1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 defining a top flavor describing overlapping relational database columns and non-
3 overlapping relational database columns of the table.

- 1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
2 defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first version; and

3 receiving, at the second site, from the first site, an indicator of the first flavor.

- 1 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:
2 defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second version; and
3 wherein the step of updating, at the second site, the second version of the table
4 based on the change data includes the step of updating overlapping
5 columns between the first flavor and the second flavor in the second
6 version of the table.

- 1 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 maintaining an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site, wherein
3 the step of maintaining the second version of the table at the second site includes
4 the step of maintaining a master table at a master site.

- 1 9. (Previously presented) A method of modifying a table to drop a first column and
2 add a second column, said table being replicated at a plurality of sites, comprising
3 the steps of:
4 (a) associating a first flavor with a first site, said first flavor describing the table as
5 having both the first column and the second column;
6 (b) after associating the first flavor with the first site, adding the second column to
7 a first version of the table at the first site, so that the first version of the
8 table contains both the first column and the second column;
9 (c) associating a second flavor with the second site, said second flavor describing
10 the table as having the second column but not the first column;
11 (d) after associating the second flavor with the second site, dropping the first
12 column and adding the second column to a second version of the table at
13 the second site;
14 (e) after dropping the column and adding the second column to the second version
15 of the table at the second site, associating the second flavor with the first
16 site and dropping the first column from the first version of the table at the
17 first site; and

(f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and
(e) such that records stored in the first version of the table at said first site
are replicated from said first site to said second site while said first version
of the table and said second version of the table maintain a different set of
columns for the table.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of maintaining
replication activities includes the steps of:
transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first version of the
table from the first site to the second site; and
updating the second version of the table at the second site based on overlapping
columns between the first flavor and the second flavor.

11. (Currently amended) A method of propagating changes to a data container,
comprising:
~~maintaining a second version of the data container at a second site;~~
receiving, ~~at the second site,~~ from a first site maintaining a first version of the data
container, at a second site that maintains a second version of the data
container, change data that identifies changes made to the first version of
the data container; and
updating, at the second site, the second version of the data container based on the
change data ~~to create an updated second copy of the table;~~
wherein the first copy of the data container and the ~~updated~~ second copy of the
data container have at least one non-overlapping data field both before and
after the step of updating.

12-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium storing one
or more sequences of instructions for propagating changes to a table, wherein
execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
causes:
~~maintaining a second version of the table at a second site;~~

6 receiving, ~~at the second site,~~ from a first site maintaining a first version of the
7 table, at a second site that maintains a second version of the table, change
8 data that identifies changes made to the first version of the table; and
9 updating, at the second site, the second version of the table based on the change
10 data ~~to create an updated second version of the table,~~
11 wherein at least one of the first version of the table and the ~~updated~~ second
12 version of the table have at least one non-overlapping relational database
13 column both before and after the step of updating.

1 17. (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 16, wherein the non-overlapping relational database column is present in the first
3 version and missing in the ~~updated~~ second version of the table.

1 18. (Currently amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 16, wherein the non-overlapping relational database column is missing in the first
3 version and present in the ~~updated~~ second version of the table.

1 19. (Previously presented) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 16, further comprising the step of reconciling differences in the column shape of
3 the first version and the column shape of the second version for changes identified
4 in the change data.

1 20. (Previously presented) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 16, further comprising the step of defining a top flavor describing overlapping
3 relational database columns and non-overlapping relational database columns of
4 the table.

1 21. (Previously presented) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 20, further comprising the steps of:
3 defining a first flavor describing the columns of the first version; and
4 receiving, at the second site, from the first site, an indicator of the first flavor.

1 22. (Previously presented) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 20, further comprising the steps of:
3 defining a second flavor describing the columns of the second version; and
4 wherein the step of updating, at the second site, the second version of the table
5 based on the change data includes the step of updating overlapping
6 columns between the first flavor and the second flavor in the second
7 version of the table.

1 23. (Previously presented) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim
2 16, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions further causes:
3 maintaining an updatable snapshot at a laptop computer site, wherein
4 the step of maintaining the second version of the table at the second site includes
5 the step of maintaining a master table at a master site.

1 24. (Previously presented) A tangible computer-readable storage medium storing one
2 or more sequences of instructions for modifying a table to drop a first column and
3 add a second column, said table being replicated at a plurality of sites, wherein
4 execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
5 causes:
6 (a) associating a first flavor with a first site, said first flavor describing the table as
7 having both the first column and the second column;
8 (b) after associating the first flavor with the first site, adding the second column to
9 a first copy of the table at the first site, so that the first version of the table
10 contains both the first column and the second column;
11 (c) associating a second flavor with the second site, said second flavor describing
12 the table as having the second column but not the first column;
13 (d) after associating the second flavor with the second site, dropping the first
14 column and adding the second column to a second version of the table at
15 the second site;

(e) after dropping the column and adding the second column to the second version of the table at the second site, associating the second flavor with the first site and dropping the first column from the first version of the table at the first site; and
(f) maintaining replication activities while performing steps (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) such that records stored in the first version of the table at said first site are replicated from said first site to said second site while said first version of the table and said second version of the table maintain a different set of columns for the table.

25. (Previously presented) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 24, wherein the step of maintaining replication activities includes the steps of: transmitting change data that identifies changes made to the first version of the table from the first site to the second site; and updating the second version of the table at the second site based on overlapping columns between the first flavor and the second flavor.

26. (Currently amended) A tangible computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions for propagating changes to a data container, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes:
~~maintaining a second version of the data container at a second site;~~
receiving, ~~at the second site,~~ from a first site maintaining a first version of the data container, at a second site that maintains a second version of the data container, change data that identifies changes made to the first version of the data container; and
updating, at the second site, the second version of the data container based on the change data ~~to create an updated second copy of the table;~~
wherein the first version of the data container and the ~~updated~~ second version of the data container have at least one non-overlapping data field both before and after the step of updating.